

Oh! What a Month!

August No Dog Days for Mat TV

Welcome back. Remember this? The place where you read of the mat industry being two breaths short of death and pleading for Ted Turner's surrender? Too quick to preach a revival? Maybe. But August marked the biggest one-month turnaround for TV wrestling in more than two years.

Consider the following, in the wake of one of the most dismal springs and summers for pro wrestling ratings, outside of *Monday Night Raw*:

****Raw*, which aired three of the five Mondays in the month, averaged a 3.2 rating, the highest monthly mark for any weekly cable series in more than two years.

COMMENTARY

****WCW Saturday Night*, which had almost become the ratings embarrassment of the industry, averaged a 3.8, a 33% increase over July, and solidified Eric Bischoff's role as executive producer.

****WCW Main Event* showed a 22% increase in rating from July on Sundays.

***Both *WCW Power Hour* and *WWF Mania* registered ratings jumps on Saturday mornings (see *Cable Wrestling Ratings*, page 4).

***The 8.7 per cent share of audience for the Aug. 16 edition of *WCW Saturday Night*, buoyed by the Ric Flair-Sting NWA title match, was the highest post-1985 share for a weekly series since a 9 per cent mark for a February 1985 edition of Bill Watts' *Mid-South Wrestling* on TBS.

***The 3.4 rating for *Monday Night Raw* Aug. 4 tied its all-time ratings high, set in April of this year.

***The rebounding 3.8 for *Clash of the Champions* Aug. 18 ranked second, only to an NFL Redskins-Steelers game on TNT, among all cable shows.

The question many followers are asking is: why now? Why the sudden turnaround. Particularly for WCW, whom Atlanta analyst Scott Hudson congratulated on *The Real Wrestling Hotline* last week, yet termed its "wrestling at the lowest level ever."

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Matwatch
'93

Steve

Beverly

If you were a subscriber to the original version of *Matwatch* remember I was frequently less than enamored with Vince McMahon's style of broadcasting.

Not having grown up in the Eastern part of America where Vince established himself, the carnival barker-style play-by-play, which he more heavily employed in the mid-to-late '80s simply didn't mesh for one who found the great Ed Capral, Gordon Solie, Lance Russell and that young upstart Jim Ross the icons of mat broadcasters. Plus, there remained that slow-to-dissipate anger, a sign of aging when change comes to one's traditions. In this case, changes to the mat industry as a result of McMahon's aggressive business moves were a tiny bit responsible.

However, 1993 has been arguably Vince's finest year as both a broadcaster and performer. And if you live outside the Memphis viewing area, you don't get the big picture.

As cited last month, *Monday Night Raw* has brought out the best in McMahon at the mike. He relies far less on distractions while a match is in progress and stays laser-focused on the action at hand. Plus, in the live or "almost live" format, he is far more the activist. His head-on challenges and confrontations with the WWF heels are in the classic style of a Solie or Russell in aggressively making villains defend themselves.

But nothing has topped the performance McMahon has delivered (along with rival Jerry Lawler) on the August and early September series of live USWA TV shows in Memphis. Tragically, the spots are edited out of the syndicated one-hour version of the show.

To be frank, I still think the premise of Lawler as babyface in only one city in America assumes the wrestling viewers

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Steve Beverly

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are idiots, or cannot get cable, or if they can, disbelieve that Lawler is a major heel on the WWF national shows.

Nevertheless, McMahon has delivered what I consider the most brilliant heel interviews I've seen in the last five years. And the ironic thing is: he doesn't yell, he doesn't scream, he never even shifts his body position. He plays a cool, collected, disciplined, unflinchingly arrogant McMahon who looks right into the camera and incredulously asks, "Do you mean to tell me you people in Memphis, Tennessee, are the only people in America who can't see through Jerry Lawler?" If you didn't understand the storyline, McMahon would be stunningly believable.

One week, McMahon acknowledged Lawler's attempt to lure him into the ring, but said he was compelled to quote Jim Nabors. Vince let loose with a strikingly Gomeresque, "Sur-PRIZE, sur-PRIZE, sur-PRIZE!", in reference to Giant Gonzales' impending matchup with Lawler in Memphis. Lawler answers with some of the more compelling responses in his storied career.

One looks at the contrasts and sees a dramatized, seething personal distaste. And as our old friend, Paul Heyman, would say, "When you make it personal, it works. People buy it."

Ironically, this comes at one of the most personally-beleaguered times of McMahon's life. Maybe it's the old story of a good diversion lessening the intensity of one's problems.

Steve Beverly

THE REAL WRESTLING HOTLINE

Dave Meltzer (M-W-F)
Steve Beverly (Tu-Sat)
Scott Hudson (Thu)
John Arezzi (Sun)

and on Option 2....

**Jim Cornette (M), Scott Hudson (Tu),
Dutch Mantel (W), John Clark (Th),
Specials (Fr), Dennis Brent (Sa),
Georgiann Makropoulos (Su)**

1-900-903-9030

No Dog Days

(Continued from Page 1)

Three keys become apparent for the at least short-term surge of audience levels:

***August is typically a high-sampling month for cable. With the major broadcast networks heavily into reruns, USA, TBS and TNT are among the cable services which liberally schedule first-run fare in August. TNT's pre-season NFL games, USA's premiere made-for-cable movies—including the highly-rated *Outrageous Fortune* ---and two wrestling specials and the moving of the late summer TBS *Clash of the Champions* to August are among the scheduling "stunts." Viewers, accordingly, spend more time with cable during the month.

***USA is getting renewed mileage from the momentum of *Raw*, which has become the acknowledged ratings and content leader among cable shows, a distinction *Prime Time Wrestling* was never able to wrest from the WCW Saturday night show. The 2.9 and 2.8 the two *Summer Slam* specials scored against massive sports competition on TNT, ESPN and TBS were impressive.

***WCW reverted to the basics in achieving its rebound. During the month, the company did not resort to the bizarre segments and storylines (see *Matwatch '93 Editorial*, page 3) which kept the productions mired in low ratings during May, June and July. The Flair-Sting matchup is indicative viewers will stick with a lengthy match, if it is a confrontation which attracts their interest.

In short, the big two groups did a quality job in August of delivering what their staple and target audiences want to see. The WWF will make no bones about their two USA specials serving as little more than "infomercials" to build interest in *Summer Slam*. Likewise, the TBS programs are designed as standalone, self-contained shows to attract instant ratings for the SuperStation.

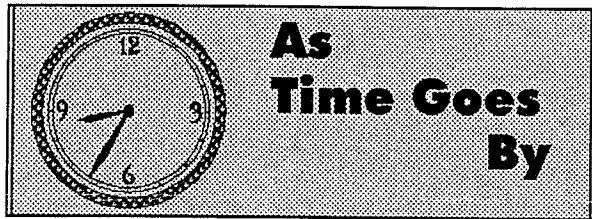
The key question: will the numbers hold up this fall? Chances are, with one of the strongest ABC college football and NFL Monday night schedules opposite the primary mat shows, usual autumn erosion will occur. The task for the WWF and WCW does not require brain surgery: continue on a path charted well in August---giving viewers what they want to see. If both groups can accomplish that, they have a fighting chance to maintain respectable audience levels.

Early Fall Numbers Tumble

Cable wrestling ratings for the first week in September took an expected tumble opposite the onslaught of college football on ABC and ESPN and NFL Sunday games.

WCW *Saturday Night* won the race for the third consecutive weekend (WWF *Monday Night Raw* was pre-empted during all three) but fell to a 1.9 rating and 5.0 per cent share of audience, in approximately 1.15 million homes. The rating was down 32% from the previous week, in part because of a significant dropoff in total viewership over Labor Day weekend.

WCW *Main Event* stayed in second with a 1.7, just ahead of the 1.6 of WCW *Power Hour*, which retained the size of its recent ratings improvement. WWF *Mania*, the only USA series to air during a week of U.S. Open tennis pre-emptions, trailed the pack at 1.2.



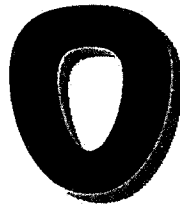
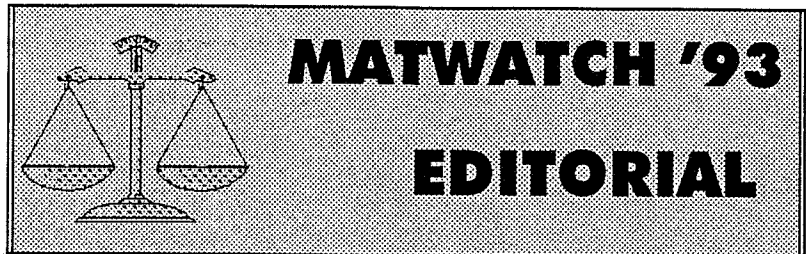
To carom off the premiere of the new syndicated *Jim Ross Show*, Ross did radio play-by-play of *Summer Slam* on the new network, which includes the Armed Forces Radio Network. If anything, Ross is even better painting a word picture on radio than on TV. His style is comparable to the legendary Larry Munson of the University of Georgia....Since last we met, Chris Cruise and Missy Hyatt have been floated as a trial balloon to co-host the proposed second hour of TBS wrestling Saturday night. As of deadline, that new broadcast was yet to be floated officially by TBS programmers.

Cruise, whom I felt was well on his way to the top level of announcers when he left WCW in 1990, is back doing *WCW Magazine* and the syndicated *Main Event*....Changes to *The Real Wrestling Hotline*: Scott Hudson and Jim Cornette swap slots--Hudson to Option 1 Thursdays and Cornette to Option 2 Mondays. Scott will add a WCW segment on Option 2 Tuesdays. Dennis Brent joins TRWH on Option 2 Saturdays.

At deadline, a former promising young mat commentator was negotiating to become coordinating producer for local telecasts of an NBA team....Rick Steiner's recent guest shot with Joe Pedicino on WSB-AM was the most articulate Rick has ever been. At times, he was completely out of character.

Speaking of Pedicino, he is returning with *The Joe Pedicino Saturday Night Wrestling Machine* marathon block to WTLK, the suburban Atlanta indie still fighting to get on larger Atlanta cable systems. Beginning Sept. 18, *WWF Challenge*, *Smoky Mountain*, *North Georgia*, *Global*, *WCW Worldwide* and *USWA* all move to WTLK from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. Saturdays. Joe begins Oct. 2.

Since I'm joining the satellite dish fraternity this month, I'll up coverage of smaller indies on the birds....Ross has just added a 50,000-watter in Richmond to his new *Radio WWF* syndie talker....Joe Fowler, Gene Okerlund's replacement on the Titan mike team, is the former host of *Knights and Warriors*, the offshoot of *American Gladiators*....Sad news to hear of the cancer of former San Francisco 49ers All-Pro guard John Ayers. You may remember him as UWF commissioner when Jim Crockett bought out Bill Watts in 1987. Ayers later refereed the second round of Ric Flair-Lex Luger matches in 1988 and the Sting-Barry Windham U.S. title match at the Sept. '88 *Clash of the Champions*....ESPN2 is now targeting an Oct. 1 debut and will have mega clearances. We'll have the mat schedule for it next month.



ften, we pundits are accused of sight-setting on destroying the mat industry (re: *Ole Anderson's July 24 WCW Hotline*). However, let it not be said *Matwatch '93* refrains from issuing positive credit when it is due, no matter whom the party.

As depicted in our cover commentary, the period of Aug. 14-23 could be called "the week-and-a-half the bleeding stopped." For months, virtually the only success story in the mat industry was the ratings climb of *Monday Night Raw*. But, driven by television, both of the big two promotions and the nation's two top independent-affiliates awakened to a semi-"midsummer night's dream" in mid-August.

Raw became the first weekly series in 19 months to finish with a monthly 3.0-plus average, propelled by a 3.4 Aug. 9. *Clash of the Champions* finished number two among all cable shows for the week ending Aug. 22. *WCW Saturday Night* scored a 3.4 the following weekend with an all-time post-1985 high 8.7 per cent share of audience. *Summer Slam Spectacular* posted a strong number opposite a top-rated NFL pre-season game and a Braves-Cubs contest.

Hardcore analysts can debate the relative creative merits of all of these outings. But what cannot be debated is interest is resurging and the WWF and WCW have done so without attempted on-screen murders, sexual innuendo, or some of the early summer's tastelessness.

Plain and simple, the big two are doing a better job of delivering what their target audiences want to see. That's good for television. That's good for the entire industry. And while many newsletter readers clamor to read only the criticism, *Matwatch '93* congratulates both groups on the ratings increases and encourages them to continue with the basics of giving the viewer what he or she wants to see.

However, in the midst of the late summer resurgence, *Matwatch '93* is disturbed to see a reoccurrence of a trend which appears to surface every summer in Memphis.

At least seven times during the past three months, Brian Christopher has been featured, either in-studio or in clips from the Mid-South Coliseum, either hitting or physically abusing women. Predominantly, the target has been Ms. Texas. But Christopher was also seen roughly throwing Toni Adams to the mat at a coliseum show.

We can't say this enough, as we have in past years: Memphis, Tennessee, is a city with one of the highest per capita rates of domestic abuse in America. While wrestling has often been successful by reflecting society, this is a crass and cheap way of doing so. Christopher is capable of engendering hate from viewers with his Eddie Haskell personality without the need to physically attack women. The storylines virtually lend credence to those in rural west Tennessee who find the behavior acceptable. Further, they add to wrestling's traditional and callous disrespect for women.

We, for one, don't. The USWA has ridden piggyback to this fan interest resurgence, through its association with the WWF. For business to continue at a robust clip, these tasteless men-hitting-women angles ought to be dead and buried. The time has come for Jerry Jarrett to act with respectability, not a cheap TV thrill. And originating station WMC-TV ought to take a similar step for the Saturday show.

MATWATCH '93

PAGE 4 VOL. 1, NO. 4 SEPTEMBER 1993

THE RATINGS PAGE

CABLE WRESTLING RATINGS

Averages for Aug.	Rating/Share	Total Homes	July Avg.
Monday Night Raw	3.2/5.1	1.913 million	2.9/4.7
WCW Saturday Night	2.8/6.8	1.671 million	2.1/5.6
WCW Main Event	2.2/4.9	1.330 million	1.8/4.7
WWF All-American	2.1/6.0	1.282 million	2.4/7.4
WCW Power Hour	1.4/6.4	828,500	1.4/5.7
WWF Mania	1.2/4.8	742,000	1.1/3.6

Week Ending Aug. 2	Rating/Share	Total Homes	Nat. Rank
Monday Night Raw (8/2)	2.9/4.8	1.754 million	14
WWF All-American (8/1)	2.2/6.9	1.324 million	38
WCW Main Event (8/1)	2.1/4.8	1.259 million	T42
WCW Saturday Night (7/31)	2.1/5.3	1.255 million	T42
WCW Power Hour (7/31)	1.4/6.6	842,000	
WWF Mania (7/31)	1.1/4.2	662,000	

Week Ending Aug. 9	Rating/Share	Total Homes	Nat. Rank
Monday Night Raw (8/9)	3.4/5.5	2.098 million	10
WCW Saturday Night (8/7)	2.5/6.1	1.554 million	35
WWF All-American (8/8)	2.2/6.4	1.329 million	48
WCW Main Event (8/8)	2.1/4.7	1.265 million	T56
WWF Mania (8/7)	1.3/5.2	811,000	
WCW Power Hour (8/7)	1.2/5.6	727,000	

Week Ending Aug. 16	Rating/Share	Total Homes	Nat. Rank
Monday Night Raw (8/16)	3.2/5.1	1.931 million	9
WCW Saturday Night (8/14)	2.6/6.3	1.558 million	22
WWF All-American (8/15)	2.3/6.4	1.385 million	34
WCW Main Event (8/15)	2.2/4.9	1.313 million	38
WWF Mania (8/14)	1.3/5.5	796,500	

Week Ending Aug. 23	Rating/Share	Total Homes	Nat. Rank
WCW Saturday Night (8/21)	3.4/8.7	2.055 million	6
WCW Main Event (8/22)	2.3/5.1	1.379 million	31
WWF All-American (8/22)	2.0/5.4	1.206 million	47
WCW Power Hour (8/21)	1.5/6.6	905,000	N/A
WWF Mania (8/21)	1.4/5.5	853,000	N/A

Week Ending Aug. 30	Rating/Share	Total Homes	Nat. Rank
WCW Saturday Night (8/28)	2.8/6.6	1.698 million	T15
WCW Main Event (8/29)	2.4/4.9	1.456 million	29
WWF All-American (8/29)	1.9/5.0	1.152 million	44
WCW Power Hour (8/28)	1.6/6.9	963,000	
WWF Mania (8/28)	1.1/3.7	663,000	

August Specials	Rating/Share	Total Homes	Nat. Rank
Clash/Champions (8/18)	3.8/6.9	2.295 million	2
Summer Slam Spec. I (8/22)	2.9/4.8	1.793 million	9
Summer Slam Spec. II (8/23)	2.8/4.2	1.703 million	T15

WHAT THEY MEAN

Our page one column says it all....but a key factor in August is the share of audience (percentage of all sets on at a given hour). In late afternoon and prime-time access (the 7-8 p.m. Eastern time hour), cable networks consider a 5 per cent share a cutoff for acceptability. Every series, with the exception of *All-American Wrestling* grew during August. *All-Am* ran into heavy competition from two NASCAR races on cable and three NFL pre-season games on the major networks. But the strength of *Raw* and growth of the two primary WCW shows produced a turnaround not seen in 1993 on a month-to-month basis. The further key: if this trend continues for a quarter, the companies can likely upward adjust their advertising rates.

THE SPECIALS

The upturn for *Clash of the Champions* produced its best rating/share since November 1991's 4.3 and came without either Ric Flair or Sting being in a major or main event. The show peaked with a 4.5 rating for the Davey Boy Smith-Big Van Vader main event, the top mark for a finale since the Lex Luger-Rick Steiner title bout in early 1992.

The two WWF specials, the second an edited one-hour version of the previous evening's offering, produced an 8% increase for the Sunday edition and 17% for Monday. The *Summer Slam* previews accomplished this opposite a highly-rated NFL preseason game and Braves-Cubs ESPN matchup Sunday and an ABC NFL game and the highest-rated TBS Braves game from the West Coast of the year on Monday.

FINAL NOTES

For our purposes, we don't consider the *Raw* winning streak over at 25 weeks because of three straight pre-emptions. The record is 27....For you so interested, the all-time record share for a weekly wrestling series was in February 1983, a *World Championship Wrestling* episode in which Mr. Wrestling II (teamed with Pez Whatley) put up his mask vs. "\$25,000" of Larry Zbyszko (teamed with Tully Blanchard) in an elimination tag bout. The share: 13.2.

MATWATCH '93 SUBSCRIPTIONS

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***One rating point equals 602,000 homes per quarter-hour on USA and 59.98 million on TBS.

The Story Continues

My Life on the WCW Hotline

The phone rang in my office on a Tuesday morning. "You and I are on a collision course!" barreled a rather blustery voice. It could only be one man: Jim Herd. We both get a good laugh about this now. But Herd was incensed at my telling callers on the WCW Hotline the dramatic tones of "Come...Sting," in the guise of The Black Scorpion, were coming from Ole Anderson. I had said, tongue-in-cheek, Ole studied Jay Silverheels' delivery on *The Lone Ranger* in preparation for the voiceover role.

"You're responsible for creating problems between me and my booker," Herd insisted. Apparently, Ole had stormed into Herd's office and demanded my dismissal from the hotline and, for an instant, Herd considered it (Anderson later confirmed this in his one and only phone call to me in the fall of 1991). In fact, Herd had summoned hotline coordinator Lance Russell to suggest my very disposal. As was his custom, Lance revealed computer printouts on the success of *900 Matwatch* and Herd relented. However, he warned me, "Stop causing problems between me and the booking department. There's a crisis a minute around here and I don't need one more from you." Frankly, in the last year-to-18 months, some of Herd's very critics have suggested his presence would have been a lot more welcome than the constant sea of subsequent crises they have faced.

Ross Atlanta Show Axed

ATLANTA---*Wrestling with Jim Ross*, the two-year-old mat talk series, was canceled by WSB-AM after the Aug. 29 broadcast.

Hosted in the Atlanta studio by Joe Pedicino for seven of the final eight weeks after Ross's permanent move to Connecticut to join the World Wrestling Federation, WSB programmers have opted to shift to a weekly preview show for the 1996 Summer Olympics.

Ross's *Radio WWF* two-hour syndicated talkfest is now airing on ten stations and negotiations are underway to expand the lineup to a number of major markets.

"Slam" Buy-Rate Off From '92

(From *Matwatch '93 Reports*)

Summer Slam '93 will apparently post a buy-rate in the neighborhood of 30 per cent below that of the 1992 show.

Early cable estimates from major cities indicate *Slam* attracted a 1.2-1.3 per cent buy-rate. In the 22-million home universe, the show was purchased in an estimated 280,000 homes. The figure is down from the 1.8 per cent estimate for last year.

The new industry newsletter *Buy-Rate* estimates gross revenues from the show in the \$8 million range, not including videotape and international sales. The estimates are based on an average subscription price of \$27.95.

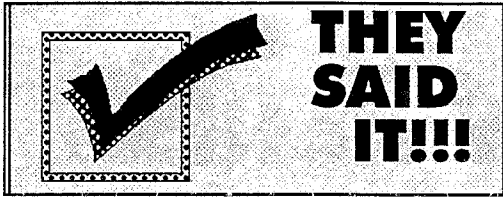
To be perfectly frank, I had not hesitated to be critical of the WCW product on the hotline because I had been encouraged to from the outset, if I felt so inclined. The theory was a night of news and opinion on the line which was not dictated by company hype would be a strong alternative to lesser-producing revenue nights. Computer printouts indicated *900 Matwatch* consistently made more money for the hotline than any of the weeknight programs and was third behind the Saturday night Jim Ross and Sunday Missy Hyatt segments, both of which benefited from heavy on-air promotion. However, the internal arguing was loud and long against Beverly because he's "killing our business."

However, the tirade became profuse in January 1992, shortly after Herd stepped down from the executive vice president post. Lex Luger's attorney had found a clause in Luger's contract which opened a window for him to join Titan Sports, as long as he didn't wrestle on a WWF television show for a year. I was tipped to it and with new WCW chief Kip Frey just ten days into his post, I contacted WCW president Jack Petrik. I asked outright, "Jack, is it fair to say that Lex is going?" Said Petrik: "Yes, you can say it. I don't know what we have to gain from hiding it. It's going to be known anyway." I further asked approval to use the item on the next week's hotline segment, as long as I presented the story in a fashion which did not spoil the outcome in advance of the February Luger-Sting WCW world title bout. Petrik gave his approval.

The gist of my program the following Tuesday was that Luger had accepted a bid to join the new World Bodybuilding Federation and that his final match, for now, with WCW would be at the pay-per-view. "Win, lose, or draw," I reported, "this will be Luger's last bout, according to WCW president Jack Petrik. If Luger wins or draws against Sting, he intends to retire the belt and concentrate on bodybuilding and the operation of his gyms."

Not five minutes went by before a cry reportedly went up throughout the 12th floor of CNN Center that I had to go. Frey, who was anything but warm in my initial attempts to contact him, was apparently ready to go along. Again, Lance came to the rescue. He pointedly asked Kip, likely at his own peril, "If the president of this company gave you approval to do something you had asked permission for, would you not do it?" Frey had no choice but to agree. Another survival course. More would come.

(Next month: Kip Frey's decision to fire me and the Bill Watts era.)



The Best of August

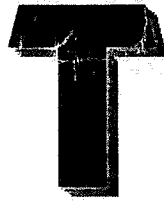
1. Jim Cornette, *Regis and Kathie Lee*: "Hey, Regis, I hear you're from Notre Dame. When the Pope came over, he heard it, too. That's why he went back home."
2. Rush Limbaugh, *Rush Limbaugh Show*: "How is (Speaker of the House) Tom Foley any different from Vince McMahon?"
3. Scott Hudson, *The Real Wrestling Hotline*: "The people I watched *Summer Slam* with really wanted me to give Undertaker-Giant Gonzales two stars. But, really, I was in pain after that one."
4. Jesse Ventura, *Clash of the Champions*: "Schiavone, you're actually arguing with me. What expert has put you up to this?"
5. Regis Philbin/Cornette, *R&KL*: (RP) "Jim (Cornette), has anyone ever taken your blood pressure?" (JC) "No, but if they took yours, you'd be the star of *Night of the Living Dead III*."
6. Cornette, *Jim Ross Show*: "Hey, Pedicino, I hear the Sara Lee factory in Greenville, South Carolina, had to close down when you left town!"
7. Jerry Lawler, *USWA*: "Vince McMahon has the courage of a greased hog."
8. Bobby Heenan, *Monday Night Raw*: "I hear Jim Nabors will sing the new theme music for the Undertaker."
9. Cornette, *Jim Ross Show*: "Clinton and Gore---sounds like a new horror movie!"
10. Dave Meltzer, *TRWH*: "It doesn't matter how (Lex) Luger's personality gets over on the bus tour. Wrestling is a medium where it's all in how you're marketed on television."

Strongest Comments

1. Limbaugh, *RLS*: "There's no difference in what goes on on the floor of the House of Representatives and professional wrestling. It's all in who has the power to make the script come out the way you want it."
2. Lawler, *USWA*: "I've been telling you for years: Vince McMahon is a jerk. He's a sex maniac. He's a pervert. Well, he's all of these things!"
3. McMahon, *USWA*: "I always heard it and now I know. Just walking into Memphis, Tennessee, makes you want to take a shower."
4. Hudson, *TRWH*: "If the 1-2-3 Kid was going to lose, I would have thought it would be to somebody other than Mike Rotunda. He just doesn't mean anything any more."

(Continued in opposite column)

"Paradise" Finds Home for Hogan



he popular term in television is "firm go" for programs which find enough stations to earn a berth in syndication. Hulk Hogan's upcoming *Thunder in Paradise* series is as firm as they come for next March.

After anticipating a weak time period for the action-adventure series from CBS, which was financing the two-hour movie pilot, syndicator Rysher/TPE took over distribution and opted to sell the show to individual stations.

The result has been sales already in 48 of the top 60 markets, with clearances all in prime time. The sales cover 67% of the country, which assures *Thunder* will launch next spring. Many stations will pair the series with the new *Robocop* action hour.

Among stations cleared: WWOR, New York; KCOP, Los Angeles; WPWR, Chicago; KBHK, San Francisco; WGNX, Atlanta; WLVI, Boston; KTVT, Dallas-Fort Worth; WXON, Detroit; KHTV, Houston; WUAB, Cleveland; KSTW, Seattle-Tacoma; WFTS, Tampa; KMSP, Minneapolis-St. Paul; KPLR, St. Louis; KRBK, Sacramento; KUTP, Phoenix; and KPTV, Portland.

The series will begin with the two-hour pilot, followed by a guarantee of 22 one-hour episodes. Starring with Hogan are former model Carol Alt, Chris Lemmon (of Fox's *Open House* and Patrick Macnee, the legendary John Steed of *The Avengers*).

Blooper Award (Cont. from opp. col.)

1. Fred Ottman, for his set-crashing and mask-losing entrance at *Clash*. Looked like the opening to *The Dick Van Dyke Show*.

The Rest of August

BEST INTERVIEW - McMahon, for cool heel, arrogant seg on *USWA*.

DREADED GLITCH AWARDS
1. WCW, for Ric Flair Sting vs. Harlem Heat promo airing before angle to set up the pairing.
2. WWF, for early graphic errors on *Summer Slam*.

BEST PERFORMANCE - Jim Cornette, *Regis and Kathie Lee*.

BEST REVIVAL - Chris Cruise returning to WCW.

BOO AWARD - *USWA*, for several continued instances of Brian Christopher hitting and abusing women in storylines (see *Matwatch '93 Editorial*).

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